



■ **Art and form:** Vancouver artists Barbara Bicheil, Celeste Snowber and Mary Blaze prepare the Campbell River Art Gallery for a show featuring their work starting Thursday at 7 p.m. Snowber will perform contemporary dance and the two other artists will display their paintings.

Women's perspectives take on artistic form

Two exhibitions open at the Campbell River Art Gallery this Thursday at 7 p.m., highlighted by an innovative dance performance by Celeste Snowber of Vancouver.

The Campbell River Art Gallery now has two exhibition halls, thanks to recent renovations, allowing them to open these two shows at once. In the main gallery an exhibition titled "Women Enduring Freedom" features paintings by Mary Blaze and Barbara Bickel. Their presentation includes a collaborative dance performance by Celeste Snowber. CRTC will film the dance and their video will be shown as an integral part of the continuing exhibition.

Snowber, an instructor at SFU with a diverse

background, integrates voice, poetry and contemporary dance in a brief performance that draws out the themes presented in the paintings. She will be joined by one of the painters, Mary Blaze, who will mark one of the walls in the gallery in bold slashes of charcoal.

All three women are Vancouver residents with impressive academic credentials and career achievements. Their beautifully integrated exhibition is a response to global politics and war. Bickel's densely layered collages overlap Blaze's huge, boldly marked canvasses, to create a unified expression that inspires viewers with their energy and female perspectives.

The Gallery's summer

art instructor, Justin Wright, curated an exhibition of work by Paul Bishop of Quadra Island in the Gallery's new exhibition hall. Wright selected over 70 of Bishop's multi-layered collages, all of which depict one woman, for an exhibition titled "Absolution."

"He's expressing something very directly and fearlessly with these images," says Wright. "When you see them you're experiencing his vulnerability on the subject and his strength to face it." Wright goes on to share a quote from writer Tom Robbins, which he says embodies the emotional perception of Bishop's images. "In the haunted house of life," wrote Robbins, "art is the

only stair that doesn't creak."

The Gallery staff and volunteers invite you to attend the opening of these two exhibitions on Thursday evening. There is no admission and refreshments will be served. "Women Enduring Freedom" continues at the

Gallery until August 29. Paul Bishop's exhibition, "Absolution," continues until September 30.

The Gallery is open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 287-2261 for more information about these exhibitions or upcoming classes for children and young adults.